**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-29 (Canceled)

30. (Original) Method for the synthesis of di-or oligopeptides or derivatives thereof from two starting materials, the first of which is an N-formyl protected amino acid which is capable of undergoing an enzymatic coupling reaction with a second amino acid or derivative thereof, or with a di-or oligo-peptide or derivative thereof, compound, wherein the N-formyl protecting group of the first starting material is retained during the enzymatic coupling reaction with the second starting material, whereby said protecting group is cleaved off enzymatically, using an enzyme having formylmethionyl peptide deformylase activity and having as a co-factor bivalent metal ions chosen from the group of group 5 to 11 metals from the periodic system of elements, from the reaction compound at a substantially higher, i. e. at least l0x higher, rate than from the first starting material, and wherein two enzymes are involved simultaneously for the enzymatic coupling reaction between the starting materials and the enzymatic deformylation of the reaction compound.